

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

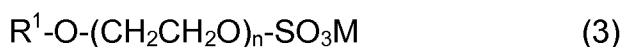
Claims:

Cancel claims 1-12.

Abstract:

Replace the Abstract as below:

--A water base ink for ink-jet recording contains a self-dispersible coloring agent, a propylene glycol ether, and a surfactant composed of a random copolymer represented by the following general formula (3):



wherein R^1 represents an alkyl group having a number of carbon atoms of 12 to 15, M represents Na or triethanolamine, and n represents an integer of 2 to 4, and wherein the propylene glycol ether is dipropylene glycol propyl ether. The ink satisfies three requirements of i) the satisfactory initial introduction performance of the ink into an ink flow passage of a stacked type printer head, ii) the prevention of the occurrence of feathering, and iii) the prevention of the insufficient spread of the ink.--

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manish S. Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-2152. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Manish S. Shah/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2853

/MSS/